MUSIC TRIVIA

- It's not English and it's not a horn, but it's called an English horn. Actually, it's an alto oboe from France.
- In the Middle Ages, the murder of a traveling musician - tell Willie - was not a punishable crime.
- A night club musician tells you what you already knew: The first dollar or two in the tip jar is a primer put there by the night club musician.
- Claim is almost every nation in the world has one or more brass bands and almost every brass band in the world plays "The Beer Barrel Polka."
- Q: You once said a man named Matt Honk changed the saloons of the West. How?

A: He sold pianos to them. Players of ragtime music took over. In his honor, the places came to be called Honky Tonks.

- Professional dancers have not always enjoyed the best of reputations. In England, even the law was written to discriminate against them. As late as 1936, a dancer couldn't rent an apartment or buy a car without a co-signer who could claim a more honorable profession.
- Not every song written by Hoagy Carmichael, the "Stardust" man, became wildly popular. Take this one: "I'm a Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank on the Streets of Yokohama With My Honolulu Mama Doin' the Beato, Beato Hirohito Blues." It didn't catch on.
- Q: Who is the youngest person ever to record a number one hit song? A: That would be Jordy Lemoine (born 1/14/88), whose father - an independent record producer - recorded the young rapper's 1993 hit song, "Dur Dur, d'Etre Bebe" (It's Hard to be a Baby) in his native France when the lad was a mere four and a half years old!
- Dean Martin, Porter Waggoner, Jimmy Dean, Roy Clark and Charlie Pride - they all sang country western songs written by the war hero and actor Audie Murphy.
- At the dinner table, Mozart's wife cut his meat for him, according to historical footnotes. He was too busy. Thinking.
- When he wasn't composing musical masterpieces, Richard Wagner oversaw the digging in his garden of a grave - his own. He was pretty proud of it. Used to parade his dinner guests out to it between courses.
- Claim is there's a scientific reason why left-handers have an advantage as musicians. Has to do with what parts of the brain deal with sound.
- Do you buy the contention that piano playing can burn as many calories as motorcycle riding?
- Add this to your ancient Elvis collection: In Presley's pre-plump period, Colonel Tom Parker told the world he'd directed Larry Geller, Elvis' barber, to save 100 hairs a week from the star's head. For devotees.
- In Chopin's day, shaving was so tedious he sometimes only shaved one side of his face, the side the audience would see during a performance. Or so he said in letters to his parents.
- The spoken word eventually crowds out the written word. We say "TV" more frequently than we say "television." And "phone" instead of "telephone." Did you know "piano" is just an abbreviated form of the correct "pianoforte"?
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